

Human Services Commission Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2011

9 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center, Room 2-025, Chicago

Commissioners in Attendance

In person: Joseph Antolin, Heartland Alliance; Eileen Durkin, Neumann Family Services; Salvador Godinez, IDOC; Dan Harris (Nancy Shier proxy), Ounce of Prevention; Senator Mattie Hunter, IL State Senate; Anne Irving, AFSCME Council 31; Toni Irving, Office of the Governor; Jack Kaplan (Laura Thrall proxy), United Way; Maggie Laslo, SEIU; Ngoan Le, Chicago Community Trust; Sharron Matthews (Julie Hamos proxy), HFS; Sessy Nyman (Maria Whelan proxy), Action for Children; Jean Ortega-Piro, DCFS; Maria Pesqueira, Mujeres Latinas en Accion; Nancy Ronquillo, Children's Home+Aid; Kathy Ryg, Voices for IL Children; Ray Vasquez, YMCA

Phone: Michelle Carmichael (Christopher Koch proxy), ISBE; Ric Estrada, Metropolitan Family Services; Pam Heavens, Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living; Gary Huelsman, Catholic Charities; Marco Jacome, Health Alternative Systems; Representative Naomi Jakobsson, IL House of Representatives; Shawn Jeffers, Little City Foundation; George Jones, Ada S. McKinley; Greg Pierce, United Power; Dee Ann Ryan, Vermilion County Mental Health

Technical Support Team and Guests

In person: Michelle Arnold, Victor Blackwell, Michelle Cooney, Elizabeth Daddo, Ellyn Drathing, Judith Gethner, Bob Goerge, Clayton Frick, Jim Lewis, Susan Locke, Denice Murray, Amy Rynell, Sarah Sullivan, Roopa Seshadari, Layla Sulieman, Amy Terpstra, Carrie Thomas

Support Staff

Robbie Dembo, Janice Pacheco, Brandon Thorne, Simone Weil

Welcome and Introductions – Co-Chair Ngoan Le

Commissioners at the meeting and on the phone introduced themselves.

Due to a lack of quorum voting could not take place on the approval of minutes from the August 9th HSC meeting and it was determined that this item would be place on next meeting's agenda.

Update on recent decisions affecting human services – Toni Irving

- DJJ, DHS, and DOC facilities have been slated for closure and hearings have occurred, or are scheduled to occur soon, regarding each facility that is scheduled to be closed

- Veto session will be taking place next week, but there are no expected changes for closures, all are currently on target
- Hearings have been mainly structured by legislators and have included agency heads, service providers, OMB, and others
- Concerns were raised over the transition process of certain facilities and how much community input has been taken into consideration. It was suggested that these concerns be brought to the Agency Director overseeing closure. It was further suggested that Commissioners encourage community members to get involved with the planning process.

Key findings from Public Hearings – Simone Weil

- Simone Weil presented (presentation available on the HSC website) on the key findings from these hearings
- Hearings were held in 3 different locations throughout the state, Chicago, Aurora, and Springfield
- Testimony was gathered from a wide variety of individuals and organizations representing an array of populations. Service providers, service recipients, and other concerned parties all participated.
- Testimony was gathered in order to document and gain understanding of the impact of the cuts made in the FY 2012 Illinois State Budget on all sectors of human services and to also gather input on human services for the Budgeting for Results process.
- Key issues were raised during the 3 hearings that took place across the state :
 - Demand for services is on the rise, while resources are becoming more scarce
 - Non-Medicaid eligible individuals are not being provided with the needed care, especially substance abuse services
 - Due to irregular contracting (4 months only) and unresolved budget issues there has been uncertainty among providers about the level of services that they will be able to provide
 - Unclear payment schedules have led to a lag in service delivery and compensation, forcing organizations to be mindful of their budget before providing services
 - Cutting certain services may result in an increase in demand in other services in the future; e.g., cutting mental health services may lead to increase in incarcerations
 - Reducing and cutting programs has made the state ineligible for some matching federal funding
 - Suburban areas and the growing Latino population need to be given more consideration when looking at the future of human services
 - Coordination needs to happen to ensure transitions from state facilities to communities is done properly
 - Many will be affected by the facility closures
- During the hearings, participants provided recommendations for the Budgeting for Results Commission to consider:
 - Keep the process transparent by engaging stakeholders and consumers
 - When developing measures and outcomes consider the unique needs of all populations and allocate adequate time to deliberate and think through issues such as potentially unintended consequences of its decisions
 - Closely examine the resources needed to provide adequate services and understand where the needs are

- Consider the change in needs according to demographics and location
- Understand the burden of data collection on service providers
- Increase state revenue to meet human service needs and address the decreasing number of services available for non-Medicaid eligible clients who are not able to pay for private services
- Budgeting for Results should consider the need to find a solution to fund pensions so that there is adequate funding for human services

Trends Impacting Human Services – Amy Rynell and Amy Terpstra

- Heartland Alliance’s Social Impact Center was contracted to prepare a report examining the need for human services; Amy Rynell and Amy Terpstra presented (presentation available on the HSC website) on the progress of the report, its structure, and what will be examined in the report
- This report will support the work of the HSC by outlining basic population and demographic trends, identifying who is in need of services in the seven core categories of human service; community-based mental health services, disability services, employment services, housing and homeless services, senior services, substance abuse services, and youth services; and exploring how current realities and trends may impact the level of need in the future
- The report will document how need is measured and how data can be used for system planning
- There will be one chapter on each of the seven core categories of human service in the report detailing who is in need within that service category, estimates of the amount of need, and how this data was derived
- When asked if there were factors other than poverty that were present across the human services client population, the presenters replied that there was no single factor, but rather a variety of factors
- In response to other inquiries that presenters received, they commented that the growth in population, especially the rise in the population of Latinos in the state of Illinois, will have an impact on the future of human services

Progress Report on Budgeting for Results Commission – Jim Lewis and Layla Sulieman

- The Budgeting for Results Commission was formed to address 4 tasks:
 - Affirm 6 outcome areas as determined by the Governor: Education, Economic Development, Public Safety, Human Services, Quality of Life, and Government Services
 - Recommend allocations to the 6 outcome areas
 - Review the 1,700+ mandates for spending in all legislation and recommend those that should be discontinued
 - Conduct 4 public hearings
- One public hearing (Springfield) has been held in which only 2 participants provided testimony
- The Commission members have determined that it is impossible to complete the scope of their work in the timeframe allotted (the Commission is set to conclude by November 1st) and are creating working papers for each outcome area with recommendations to be re-tooled over the next year
- The Commission has developed a skeletal set of sub goals for each outcome area, these sub goals came from conversations that took place with state agencies and are currently being developed further

- Sub goals will eventually be bid on by state agencies and so should be measured using a common metric
- The Commission is to recommend allocations across the 6 outcome areas, but before doing so they must know which programs fall within each sub goal and so must establish these first
- Budgeting for Results is unrolling in state agencies now;
 - Agencies received budget requests from OMB
 - Agencies are in the process of forming budget requests
 - Once submitted, there will be a 6 week negotiation between agencies and OMB and the Governor's office
 - Contracts have changed to include performance reporting
 - There is no new data in FY13 except in contracts where no data is currently included
 - Performance standards are included: assessment and re-alignment
- Concerns were raised that outcomes-based management is not the same as outcomes-based funding, which shifts the risk to service providers. It creates poorer quality services and violations in licensing. The presenters replied that agencies are unable to sell what is outside of the sub goals
- The presenters stated that for FY'13 the different expectations include GRF line items – the highest spends and the items without performance measures are prioritized: Tier 1 and more performance reporting

Extension of Human Services Commission terms – Toni Irving and Ngoan Le

- The Co-Chairs raised the question as to whether continuing with the Commission would be a good use of resources
- The Commission is set to finish on November 30, but recommendations have been made to extend the life of the Commission
- Commissioners agreed that during the last 6 months the Commission has made progress and produced concrete results, including having individuals appointed to the Budgeting for Results Commission, the DHS internal re-organization, recommendations made to HFS regarding secondary outcomes, the contract process at DHS, and the recommended splitting of healthcare and human services; and for this reason should continue
- Commissioners also expressed an interest in continuing because of the forum provided by the HSC, allowing for straight communication between providers, state agency directors, and legislators
- A concern was raised over the time commitment needed from Commissioners in order for the HSC to be successful and how many Commissioners have not been able to meet that commitment
- A response to this concern stated that Commissioners may be absent from the official HSC meetings, but they still are in communications with their fellow Commissioners
- It was widely felt that the current scope and charge of the HSC is too broad and that in order for the Commission to continue on successfully, the objective(s) must be much more focused
- The Commission needs a commitment from the Governor's office

Final Report

- A discussion around the final report and what it will include took place
- It was proposed that the final report include the previous reports with other reports that had been created for the HSC and which focus more on the human service client and future trends

Next meeting

- Date and location of next meeting are to be determined

Adjournment

- A motion was made to adjourn and seconded and so the meeting was adjourned